

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION *

Poland

*part of freedom of expression

DEFENDERS

- FOI Watchdog – Citizens Network Watchdog Poland
- Other Watchdogs and Human Rights defenders
- Civil society organisations
- Activists
- Journalists

FOI RELATION TO THE PREVIOUS CYCLE

- 16 recommendations related to the Rule of Law (independence and impartiality of judiciary, Constitutional Tribunal, integrity of reforms in consistence with international standards)
- Government reported that all of them were addressed
- Citizens need reliable and timely information to take part in the debate on the rule of law
- The reforms of institutions need to be transparent and accountable (16 SDG)

FOI PROTECTION WEKNESSES

- Systemic problems with judicial protection of FOI
- Excluding vast areas of public life from public information definition
- Not meeting the international and constitutional standards

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Guarantee freedom of information in the national legislation by preparing a **new bill on access to public information** in cooperation with human rights defenders, civil society experts, academics and public officials.
- **Review the national legislation** as regards obstacles to full execution of the freedom of information in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Poland
- Ensure that new legislation on the access to information and the review of other related legislation answers the challenges reported by the human rights defenders and is fully **consistent with the freedom of information standards arising from Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents and Polish Constitution.**